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NEWS RELEASE

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, Wayne E. Cleveland, Chief of the Hopewell Police Department, and Col. W. Gerald Massengill, Virginia State Police, announced that Ronnie W. Pegram, age 41, of Hopewell, Virginia, pled guilty today before United States District Judge Henry E. Hudson to a single felony count of Solicitation to Commit a Crime of Violence. Pegram is scheduled to be sentenced on December 13, 2002. He faces a maximum possible sentence of 20 years imprisonment.

In the plea hearing, Pegram admitted that he tried to hire another man to bomb the Ponderosa Mobile Home Park in Wake Forest, North Carolina, and provided the man with a detailed map of the location he wanted blown up. However, the supposed bomber he negotiated with was an undercover state police officer.

The case was investigated by the Hopewell Police Department, Virginia State Police and the Wake County Police Department in Raleigh, North Carolina, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael C. Wallace.